



Department of Housing Services



March 26, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 5011 and housing investments

Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and Members of the Committee,

Homelessness is impacting every corner of our state. Here in Washington County, we are committed to the solutions that will end homelessness, one family at a time. We braid together interventions across systems to create a comprehensive system of care, and we need help and resources from the state to continue the progress we've seen. **We urge your support of HB 5011 and the investments included in the Governor's Recommended Budget.**

The Homeless Solutions Advisory Council serves as Washington County's Continuum of Care Board and provides guidance on the county's homeless services system of care, encouraging collaborative partnerships across a wide array of systems to build a Washington County where the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. We are health care experts, behavioral health system leaders, homeless services practitioners, education professionals, public safety experts, and more. We ask for your partnership in support of HB 5011 and investments in solutions across the housing continuum.

Washington County is expanding supportive housing options, including more than \$40 million invested in the capital construction of transitional supportive housing. With local resources, we're proud to invest in housing. But it's not enough. We need **more permanent supportive housing** (POPs 513, 515, and 516), with the wrap around resources necessary to help people experiencing chronic homelessness transition to housing stability. With supportive services, long term rental assistance, and a home, we know our communities can thrive.

While we continue to build out permanent solutions – stable and affordable housing with the supports people need to thrive – we must also respond to the humanitarian crisis on our streets. **Investments in response to Governor Kotek's Executive Orders have been game changing across the state, and POPs 501, 502, and 503 ensure we don't go backwards.** In Washington County, this includes 60 shelter units purchased with state funding and homelessness ended for 154 households with rapid rehousing or long-term rental assistance.

Our statewide progress will be protected with this funding. In addition, we have to stop the inflow into homelessness. **POP 504/505 expands eviction prevention funding** while federal and local COVID-era assistance funds run dry.

We appreciate the legislature's commitment to housing solutions, and we urge ongoing investments.

Sincerely,

Kim Marshall, Chair

Drew Williamson, Vice Chair

Members of the Washington County Homeless Solutions Advisory Council